ANARCHIST LABOR BULLETIN

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Strikers Attacked

David Bacon photos

Strikers, members of Glass Molders, Pottery and Plastics Workers Local 164B, picketing outside New Life Bakery

An armed gang of scabs and supervisors attacked a peaceful picketline in front of the New Life Bakery in Hayward, California. During the attack Ignacio De La Fuente, union rep for Glass Molders and Plastic Workers local 164B, was beaten and stabbed in the face. Another worker, Freddy Reyes, was beaten in the face until blood ran into his eyes and then stabbed in the stomach. Margarita Vargas, 67 years old, was knocked to the ground and then kicked in the back and stomach until she couldn't get up. Other workers were beaten and had picket signs busted over their heads.

When the Hayward Police arrived, Reyes, De La Fuente and Vargas were taken to the hospital in ambulances. But the police, despite the protests of the strikers, refused to make any arrests. They did take away the bloody knives.

"These are the things that happen when one struggles," said Fellow Worker Reyes. "But nothing worthwhile can be gained easily. No one's turning back whatever happens."

The strike against New Life Bakery is for basic rights and union recognition. The 65 workers at the bakery organized five months ago. They are also demanding that workers laid off or suspended during the organizing campaign be reinstated.

Salvador Lopez started the organizing effort: "Whenever anyone protested, they were fired. They push us and push us. I saw all this for more than four years, and I finally had enough. Getting organized wasn't so difficult, but I didn't expect to have to fight so long and so hard."

Racism is a big factor in this struggle. The workers, predominantly Mexican, Peruvian and Central American imigrants, have been subjected to continuing degradation and abuse. Supervisors at the bakery refer to them as "stupid Mexicans". Workers have been told that it is a privilege to work at the bakery, and that they had no right to anything better. When they organized for collective

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CWA STRIKER MURDERED

On Monday, August 14th, E. Gerry Horgan, a member of Communications Workers of America, was run down and killed by a scab-driven car while walking a picketline in Valhalla, New York. The car rammed Fellow Worker Horgan, tossing him onto the hood, then sped several hundred feet before swerving, throwing him to the ground and breaking his neck. The driver of the car, the 18 year old daughter of a supevisor, has not been charged in this murder. Despite eyewitness accounts to the contrary, police reports claim that FW Horgan JUMPED ONTO THE HOOD OF THE CAR and pounded on the windshield with his fists! The union's demand for an independent investigation has been denied by the local district attorney. The police have also refused to take any statements from union members who were present.

Fellow Worker Horgan was 34, the father of two children, and was described by his friends as a quiet, family man. He was a volunteer fireman and a member of the county rescue squad.

He was also a union steward. He went to the picketline at the NYNEX dispatch center in Valhalla at the request of several women strikers who said that scabs and supervisors

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STRIKERS ATTACK CONT.

action, they were told to "go back to your own country".

Workers at the bakery are paid between $4.50 and $6.00 per hour and receive no medical or other benefits. Most have families to support! Reyes said: " I worked here for three years at $6.00 an hour, with no insurance. When I burned my hand in one of the ovens, they told me to put ice on it.

At their first organizing meetings, the workers made a committment to each other. They voted that they would all stop work if the company fired or retaliated against anyone. Their concern was justified.

Within two weeks of filing a petition for union recognition and a representation election, the company laid off 14 workers, all union supporters. The company refused to attend or send their attorney to the National Labor Relations Board hearing to determine an election date. 13 workers left work to attend the hearing under an NLRB subpeona, having given the company a weeks notice of their intention. They were suspended for 9 days.

"The company closed off the legal process for organizing, and the NLRB cooperated," De La Fuente explained. "It was our intention to use the legal process if possible, but the company boycotted it, laid people off, suspended others and finally filed charges to block the election entirely."

The day after the hearing, the workers struck. They quickly organized a boycott of the bakery's products (especially NATURES WAREHOUSE cookies and pop tarts which are distributed widely in the U.S. and Canada) which has effectively cut the bakery's revenue by one third.

"The strike and the boycott compensate for the fact that the legal process really doesn't work any more," De La Fuente said."What other weapons do working people have?"

MIKE KOLHOFF, SF WSA

PRO-CHOICE MARCH 8-20-89

Approximately 400 people showed up on August 20th for a march and rally to denounce California governor Dukmejian's deadly cuts in women's health care services. As a result of these cuts, many poor and working women will no longer have access to pregnancy counciling and testing, as well as other lifesaving medical tests. Clinics are already being forced to reduce staff and cut back hours. Some have discontinued services that they can no longer afford to provide. What all this adds up to is State-sponsored murder of poor and working women. There have already been cases where working women, unable to afford the bizarre costs of free-market medical testing, have been forced to forgo CANCER TESTS (!) because of these cutbacks. The Governor, in this blatant attempt to please his backers on the religious right, has signed a death warrent for hundreds, if not thousands, of women.

The march was saluted with honking horns and cries of encouragement as we wound are way through town, pausing at the Pregnancy Counciling Center at Bush and Octavia, and continuing on to the New State Building on Van Ness. Members of the IWW and WSA were both present at the march and rally. As a member of BACAOR (Bay Area Coalition Against Operation Rescue), one of the sponsors of the march and rally, I was dragooned into being a "monitor" on the march. This turned out to be a very pleasurable and informative experience. "Monitors" were there to essentially make sure nobody got run over by passing motorists. Three of us had walkie talkies, which allowed us to keep the length of the march aware of what was happening at either end. This was a pleasant relief campared to some demonstrations I have attended, where confusion and misinformation kept everybody on edge.

The cops kept a pretty low profile, with only a few incidents of outright assholeish behavior (they refused to give us a lane of traffic to march in, and proceded to get peevish everytime we had to enter the street to avoid cars parked in driveways). Of course these were, for the most part, traffic cops and not the professional thugs of the TAC Squad.

Of course the local big-time print media, sticking to their traditional formula of "No blood, no ink", completely ignored the march and rally. But what else can you expect from the errand boys of the ruling class?

MIKE K.

SOUTH AFRICAN NEWS

The following stories were compiled by the International Secretary of the Workers Solidarity Alliance and distributed via an internal bulletin.

From the week of July 4th:

Mobil Oil and the CWIU have agreed to a $2.5 million payout to the corporation's 2800 South African employees as a settlement of the fight over Mobil's disinvestment from South Africa. The agreement also includes the terms of the divestment sale and remaining business connections. Union agreements will be honored by the new employer, GENCOR.

NUMSA members at Goodyear South Africa began a strike on July 3rd over the company's refusal to accede to similar demands as those won by the CWIU at Mobil.

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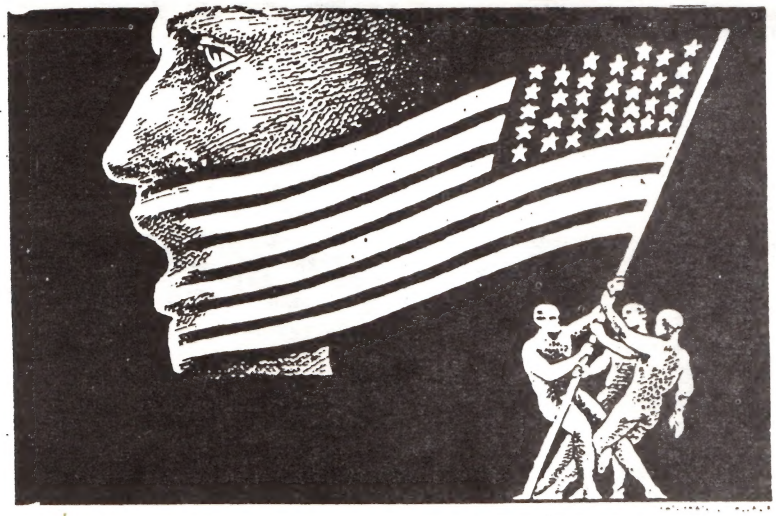

OUR NATION IS IN TROUBLE

CWA CONT. FROM PG.1

were speeding through the picketline. They were worried that someone was going to get hurt.

At a memorial on August 17th, over 3000 phoneworkers and supporters gathered to pay tribute to their brother. Present at the rally was Sam Hughes, a Pittston coal miner from St. Paul, Virginia who is walking a picketline at Pittston's corporate headquarters in Greenwich, Ct. "This is a union brother that got killed," said Hughes. "Eight or nine of our members have been hit by vehicles. It could have been one of us."

On the West Coast, the CWA strike against Pacific Bell was settled early with the workers receiving most of what they demanded. But the strike by 60,000 Communications Workers and International Brotherhood of Electric Workers continues against NYNEX in New York and New Jersey. The Class War continues everywhere.

PITTSTON STRIKE UPDATE

On July 28th a delegation of UMWA strikers vistited the Black Workers for Justice "Organize the South" labor school near Rocky Mount North Carolina. The miners were warmly greeted by organized and unorganized workers at the school, including women workers from the notorious Perdue poultry processing plants near Ahoskie, N.C. The day before, the miners delegation participated in a solidarity rally in Durham, N.C., where local unionists from AFSCME, IBEW, Operating Engineers, IAM and the UFW, presented them with $1100 to support the Pittson strike.

AUSTRALIAN MINERS SUPPORT PITTSTON STRIKE

The Miners Federation of Australia passed a resolution in July in support of the Pittston strikers. They have promised not to mine any coal meant to fill the gap in international coal production caused by the strike in the U.S. The places hardest hit by the strike (Japan and South Korea) are begging for more coal.

CAMP SOLIDARITY

United Mine Workers of America is encouraging supporters to come down to Camp Solidarity for three day stretches to help out in civil disobedience actions and to do picket duty. Monetary contributions are also welcomed, since the courts have continued their campaign aimed at bankrupting the union. Strike fund support can be sent to: Justice for Pittson Miners, UMWA Dsitrict 28, P.O. Box 28, Castlewood, VA. 24224. For information on how to get to Camp Solidarity call (703) 762-5537.

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Workplace Organizing

ORGANIZING AND THE LAW

UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICES:

Is it legal for an employer to refuse to give a union a list of names and addresses of employees during an organizing drive?

Before the NLRB has ordered an election, this may be an unfair labor practize. The union would have to show that the refusal to provide such a list violated the employees rights under section 7 of the NLRA. Most likely this would be true if the union, because of plant location or some similar factor, had very limited access to the workers. However, once an election has been set the employer must send such a list to the NLRB regional office within seven days. The regional office then sends the list to the union.

Can we talk about the union at work?

Yes, but generally speaking, it must be during non-working time. However, the National Lawyers Guild says, "If workers are allowed to talk while working, then they can also talk about organizing so long as it doesn't interrupt production or cause discipline problems."

What about soliciting authorization cards and distributing union literature?

This is all right, but it must be done in non-work areas of the plant and during non-working time. Again, the National Lawyers Guild says, "If there is a bulletin board for workers to post personal notices, they can use it to post organiszing notices also. If workers are allowed to distribute literature about other kinds of subjects in work areas, they can also distribute organizing literature too, unless it causes litter or extra work or can be considered a safety hazard. The last three special circumstances can be used to prevent distribution even in non-work areas, under extreme conditions."

Can our employer refuse to let us wear union buttons?

No. This would be an unfair labor practice. An exception would be if this interfered with your job or was unsafe. Make sure the wording on all buttons or signs is "decent".

Can our boss ask us whether we are in the union or not?

Private interrogation by a boss is almost always an unfair labor practice. be sure you write down the date and what was said at any such meeting and try to get a witness who knew about the meeting. It is probably better not to refuse to go to a meeting because your boss could say he/she was not going to talk about unions. If your boss asks you casually and not in private about the union, this may be an unfair labor practice. Of course, you do not have to answer the question. It would be an unfair labor practice to punsih you for this.

The above information is from: LABOR LAW HANDBOOK, by Michael Yates, copyright 1987, South End Press, 116 St. Botolph St., Boston, MA 02115. (If you have any trouble obtaining a copy of this book, please contact the ALN and we will try to get you a copy.)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

DIRECT ACTION GETS THE GOODS!

Public sector workers in Turkey have recently engaged in some good old fashioned direct action to win a 142% pay increase for 1989

The agreemnt covers 600,000 workers belonging to quite a few different labor orgainizations. But seeing that no one set of workers would be able to win on thier own, all public sector unions banded together in an unpresidented show of working class unity.

All public sector unions agreed to enter negotiations as one unit, and all agreed not to sign a collective agreement unless a special committee composed of major unions agreed.

In response to the denial of their right to strike, the different unions adopted a series of imaginative "collective actions". The railway workers, for example, organized mass medical appointments. Other unions used similar tactics.

After a month of these sort of actions, the government gave in.

WEEKLY STRIKES HIT BRITISH RAIL

With a large degree of public support, increasingly fed up with the appalling service provided by the crumbling UK railway network, British railworkers recently stepped up their campaign of rolling strike actions.

These rolling strikes have hit different portions of the system at different times. The strike actions have mainly consisted of 24hr strikes on three consecutive Wednesdays. Locomotive engineers have put a ban on all,overtime since early July. London bus drivers have also taken 24hr lightning strikes.

All of these strikes and actions come in the face of court injunctions and political moving by the conservative government. These strikes are as much a fight against worker-bashing as a struggle for wage increases.

GENERAL STRIKE IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

In June all life came to a standstill for 48 hours in the normally bustling capital of the Dominican Republic. The general strike was called in response to the continuing squeeze on the standard of living and living conditions of Dominican workers. Nearly one third of all Dominicans live in the capital of Santo Domingo.

REMEMBER THE DEAD AND FIGHT LIKE HELL FOR THE LIVING

Over 650 unionists were murdered and over 6500 were arrested throughout the world last year for engaging in union activities, according to a report from the annual SURVEY OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS.

Those figures are expected to increase dramatically this year because the vast majority of all those killed in China since June have been workers.

MIKE HARRIS, NY WSA

NEWS & NOTES

SEPTEMBER 20TH
Bay Area Coalition Against Operation Rescue, General Meeting. Everyone is welcome. Call (415) 626-5510 for time and location.

SEPTEMBER 20TH
SF Nuclear Free Zone Initiative: Organizing meeting to prepare for petition drive. 7pm, New College of California, 777 Valencia St., SF (415) 863-5364 for more information.

OCTOBER 15TH AND 16TH
Save the Ozone Layer: Demonstrations and Actions. Shut down the global death factories. East Coast contact: Ozone Action, 339 Lafayette St., Rm 202, NY NY 10012. West Coast: (619) 239-1426.

NOVEMBER
Mexico-U.S. Women's Labor Conference. Organized by Sindicato 19 de Septembre and IGWU. For more info contact: Maria Hernandez, Sindicato 19 de Septembre, Apartado Postal 10578, Colonia Centro, 0600, MEXICO, D.F.

ROLLING STRIKES

On July 18th the Sonoma County Organization of Public Employees (SCOPE) voted overwhelmingly to reject the county's demand for givebacks on health care, union rights and other benefits. The union then mobilized for action. The main weapon in their arsenal? THE ROLLING STRIKE.

These are short-term 'suprise' stirkes staged at unannounced sites throughout the county. Without notice, workers struck the county hospital, the water agency, the county recorder's office and other facilities. The county (using the Capitalists Best Friend) went to court to sue the union and obtained a temporary restraining order. THIS ORDER HAS HAD NO EFFECT.

Despite a barrage of intimidation tactics by management (attempts to force workers to sign "no-strike" pledges, forced "voluntary leave", etc.) the actions continue. Union officials stated: "Management tactics are increasing our membership, our strength and our resolve".

ANOTHER VIEW OF THE DAY OF ACTION

I accidently got caught up in the Action in Berkeley on July 26th. I was on my way to Cody's to buy a couple of books. Before I knew what was happening I was surrounded by a couple of hundred "anarchists" trashing Telegraph Avenue. To show you how stupid some of these people were, they trashed Shakespeare's, one of the very few places you can get anarchist reading materials. Not all of the crowd wanted to do the trashing. During a lull, half of the crowd was arguing with the other half about the merits of the Action. Of course, when the police charged all talk stopped and the crowd was united. So not all of them were stupid, just some of them. On page two of the ALB you talked about the macho-anarchists turning tail and running, leaving the weaker behind to get arrested and carted off to jail. This almost happened to me. As the police charged I fled along with the rest of the people. While running I got knocked down by someone and skinned my knees very badly. But three anarchists stopped and picked me up and pushed me into one of the stores so I wouldn't get arrested.

Anarchy forever,

BERNARD BEALDING

DAY OF ACTION CORRECTION

I was, sadly, present when the Coke truck incident occured. You can print an errata with confidence that the black driver was not pulled from the truck as some newspapers claimed, but jumped out and tore off BACK up the street the instant an object hurled by the mob of white assholes hit his window. I believe it was fruit or some such thing, because it made little sound and didn't break the window. It was only after he was running away that missiles broke the windshield and the trashing began. Given that he was nowhere near the truck by the time any "anarchists" got close, I doubt racial slurs were made, although there were enough shit-for-brains there that I wouldn't put it past them.

Anyhow, I salute your efforts. I am encouraged by the good sense of your articles. One little thing did twaek my nose though; perhaps you could substitute another graphic for the musclebound white guy under the ONE BIG UNION banner.

TED DYMENT
IWW TORONTO BRANCH

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: OCTOBER 6th

IN ISSUE 14:
VDT HEALTH HAZARDS (WE PROMISE!)
INFORMAL WORKERS ASSOCIATIONS

SOUTH AFRICA CONT.

OK BAZAARS launched a court action which effectively delayed a strike by CCAWUSA members until after the giant chain store's major winter sale.

During this week both the NUM and NUMSA appeared close to a wage settlement with their respective employers in the mining and metal working sectors. The unions are considering employer offers of 13% to 21% and 13% to 18.5% respectively.

From the week of July 10th

On July 1st a member of the South African Chemical Workers Union (SACWU) was attacked and killed by four white youths in a suburb of Johannesburg. The youths were members of the fascist group "White Wolves".

A final agreement between the chamber of mines and the NUM was reached after the members of the NUM voted to accept wage increases of 13.5-21.3%, after rejecting an earlier offer. The settlement will cover some 500,000 coal and gold miners.

97 members of the Building, Construction and Allied Workers Union (BCAWUSA) from CONCOR Technicrete near Pretoria were arrested on July 6th on charges of intimidation and joining an illegal strike. The strike followed managements failure to apply it's disciplinary policy fairly to union members and other workers.

A settlement in the engineering industry's national waqe negotiations has been delayed by the refusal of unions representing the white workers to accept the employer's offer to grant paid leave to workers on May Day, in exchange for the government-instituted "Workers Day" holiday which falls on the first Monday of May.

From the week of July 18

All labor unions and mass organizations are calling on all workers and community folks to engage in "coordinated and sustained induatrial action" against the Labour Relations Amended Act in the week leading up to general elections. The call was isuued at the COSATU national congress.

The black consciousness labor federation, NACTU, claimed victory for agricultural workers after the supreme court decision reversing the eviction of 95 striking members of the national union of farm workers from their company homes.

From the week of July 25th

A law and order ministry official declared on July 21st that security police were investigating whether COSATU's proposed general strike for Sept. 6th contravenes any security or emergency laws.

A campaign of intimidation is being waged against unionists in Uitenhage in the Eastern Cape. This campaign has already cost the life of Goodyear chief shop steward Joe Sapotela. He was killed in a bomb attack on his home July 19th. The previous day Volkswagon shop steward and newly elected COSATU vice-president John Gomomo received a death threat.

From: SOUTH AFRICAN NEWS, WSA/IWA, 339 Lafayette St. Rm 202, New York, NY, 10012.

THIRTY KILLED DURING SOUTH AFRICAN ELECTIONS

Reports are coming out of South Afirca that as many as thirty people were killed in September's General Strike against the white's only elections. Police desecended on university campuses, invading classrooms to drag students out and randomly beating students on the campus grounds. Violent confrontations between police and strikers are increasing as we assemble this issue of the ALB.

THE PAIN OF PARAGUAY

Paraguay is a country with a history of more suffering than most. It is a country that has known even genocide. Today it is enduring a new change of masks.

Paraguay is a favorite refuge of ex-dictators, nazi war criminals, a center for cocaine and contraband, where the streets are a sad picture postcard of third world miseries--where the people live simultaneously with wanton hunger and sophisticated electronic equipment. They have suffered decades of dictatorial government, a government whose secret police still control daily life.

With a government friendly with racist regimes, Paraguay is (and has been) an effective collaborator in repression in neighboring countries, such as the kidnapping and disappearance of Uruguayans Gustavo Inzaurralde (Maestro) and Santana (FUNSA). But the historical international circumstances have been changing. And at the same time the native Guarani people, responding to years of repression, have instigated their own changes during the last years of the dictator Stroesner.

Perhaps their activities were small at first, but they were sufficient (as in those days of May First 1987 and 1988) to make Mr. Rodriguez and the land barons of the Colored Party feel compelled to take "proper measures".

Now Stroesner has been replaced by his father-in-law, who used to be one of the most steadfast gaurantors of the system, and now he has begun to paint a new face on the appartus of the authoritarian government. He provides a convenient change for the capitalist world that now requires a different model of rule.

As a final "democratic" stamp to legitimize this change of costumes, elections are called. Beyond the frauds and because of the doubts, he has breathed life into an "oposition", into LAINO, who, with one romantic figure (agreeable to the social democracies of Europe) quarantees the validity of this new face and functions as a long-term option in reserve.

The chance of creating a Paraguay without misery is still in the hands of their very own sons.

From: SOLIDARIDAD, Publication of the Uruguayan Anarchist Federation
Translated by R.G. Glumm

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MINNESOTA. Minneapolis-St. Paul Branch (Nancy Collins, del.): Box 2245, St. Paul 55102. Meetings third Wednesday of each month.
MONTANA. Western Montana Branch, 415 N. Higgins, Room 104, Missoula. Open Mon through Sat, 12-5. (800) 473-4000 or (406) 721-3000. A.L. Nurse, delegate. Correspondance to Box 8562, Missoula 59807.
NEW YORK. New York Branch, Box 183, New York 10028. Meetings second Sunday of each month at 2 pm. Call Rochelle, Jackie, or John for location of meetings.
• Rochelle Semel, Box 172, Fly Creek 13337, tel. (607) 293-6489.
• D. Sacz, (212) 666-7484
• Jackie Panish, Box 372, Rego Park 11374, tel. (212) 868-1121
• John Hansen, 302 Ave. C, Brooklyn 11218, tel. (718) 854-2692
• Bob Young, Box 920, Wingdale 12594
• Joe O'Shea, Winkler's Farm, Towner's Road, Carmel 10512.
OHIO. Southwest Ohio Branch & GDC Committee #1, Box 26381, Dayton 45426
• GDC Committee #3, c/o John Perotti #167712, Box 45699, Lucasville 45699-0001
PENNSYLVANIA. Tom Hill, Box 41928, Philadelphia 19101.
SOUTH CAROLINA: Harbinger Publications, 18 Bluff Road, Columbia, South Carolina, 29201; telephone, (803) 254-9398.
TEXAS. Gilbert Mers, 7031 Kernel, Houston 77087, tel. (713) 921-0877.
VIRGINIA. Keith Preston, 1101 West Grace, Richmond, tel. (713) 355-6966; if no answer, ask for the IWW at (713) 741-1897.
WASHINGTON. Bellingham Branch, Box 1386, Bellingham 98227
• Seattle Branch, 3238 33rd Ave South, Seattle 98144
• Spokane Group, Box 1273, Spokane, 99210
• Tacoma/Olympia Branch & GDC #4, 2115 S. Sheridan, Tacoma 98405, tel. (206) 272-8119.
WISCONSIN. Madison Branch, Box 2605, Madison 53701, tel. (608) 251-1937/249-4287.

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